

## **NEW YEAR AT THE PATRIARCHATE F ALEXANDRIA**

On 31st December His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, received in his Private Patriarchal Office, according to custom, His Eminence Gabriel, Metropolitan of Leontopolis, His Grace Meletios Bishop of Naucratis and the rest of the clergy of the Patriarchal Court and the Holy Archdiocese of Alexandria, who sang the carols and conveyed their festive wishes. He then listened to the carols and received wishes for the new year of salvation, 2016 from the staff of the Patriarchate, to whom His Beatitude gave blessings and gifts.

In the afternoon of the same day His Beatitude officiated at Great Vespers at the Patriarchal Chapel of Ss. Theodori, following which in the full Hall of the Throne, he presented the proceedings of the past year, 2015, and blessed the Vasilopita of the Patriarchate.

Present at this festive synaxis were representatives of the Consulate General of Greece in the Great City, the Hellenic and Arabic Orthodox Communities of Alexandria and all the Hellenic Associations and Societies.

On 1st January 2016, His Beatitude officiated at the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos in Alexandria and conducted the Doxology for the beginning of the new year, together with His Eminence the Elder Metropolitan Gabriel, His Grace Meletios Bishop of Naucratis and the holy clergy.

At noon on New Year's day His Beatitude visited the elderly people at the Old Age Home of the Hellenic Community of Alexandria, where he gave blessings and gifts.